

OLIVER BOWLEY.

March 23, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. E. B. WASHBURN, from the Committee on Commerce, made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Commerce, to whom was referred the petition of Oliver Bowley, of Orland, Maine, part owner and agent of the schooner Smilax, for fishing bounty, submit the following report:*

The laws granting bounties to vessels engaged in the codfishery prescribed certain conditions as to time employed, the forms and manner of filing papers, &c., and required a strict compliance therewith to bring vessels so engaged within the provisions of the act granting the bounty.

By the act of 1824 (May 26) Congress so far modified its requirements as to allow other proofs than the original papers, provided it shall be proven that said original papers had been lost with the vessel on the return voyage, but subsequent to a full compliance in other respects with the provisions of previous laws.

The time specified in the law during which vessels must be engaged in the codfishery to entitle them to bounty is specifically set forth in the law.

In the present case, the vessel sailed on the 10th of June, and was lost, by coming in contact with the barque Bengal, on the 23d of August following. The time required by law not having been employed in codfishing, the vessel is precluded from the benefits of the act.

Notwithstanding special acts for relief have been passed by Congress, your committee, on a full examination of the purposes and provisions of the bounty laws, feel constrained to require compliance with its main condition as to the time the vessel shall be so employed, and, although there may be individual cases of hardship, they are incidental to this as well as all other business.

Your committee direct an adverse report.

